THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, some employees of the Krishna Godavari Project of ONGC Ltd. had resported to relay hunger protest from 30.1.1997 to 24.2.1997 in support of their demands relating to construction of office building and residential quarters at Rajahmundry; upgradation of Krishna Godavari project into an independent region etc. After a seried of meeting by ONGC officials with the representatives of employees, the relay hunger protest has been called off.

**Expansion of the Refinery Industry**

1997. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether, with the liberalisation of economy and entry of private sector, Government have decided to have a major expansion programme in the refinery industry;

(b) if so, whether the existing/ operating refineries are of 54 MT PA capcity;

(c) whether all the 12 operating refineries are old and have not been expanded so far:

(d) whether any concrete programme for expansion of these refineries has been undertaken; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The present refining capacity in the country is 60.55 MMTPA.

(c) to (e) At present there are 14 refineries operating in the country.

**Participation of MPs in the meeting of District Development Councils**

1998. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been requested to issue instructions to State Governments to allow MPs to participate in the meetings of district development councils concerning segments of their constituency;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether necessary instructions have since been issued in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (d) The Department of Programme Implementation does not deal with matters relating to District Development Councils, nor has it received any request to issue instructions to State Government to allow Members of Parliament to participate in the meetings of District Development Councils.

**Development of Hill Areas of Andhra Pradesh**

1999. SHRI K. K. KHAN: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some projects for development of Hill areas of Andhra Pradesh have been undertaken under the scheme for special central assistance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor, with steps to be taken in this regard, on the lines of similar projects undertaken in other hill areas of the country?